

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-14 and 17-18 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended by this Amendment.

Applicants express their appreciation for the Examiner's indication that independent claim 16 is allowed.

The claims have been amended so that claims 3, 4, 7-9 and 15 now depend from allowed claim 16. Claims 3, 4, 7-9 and 15 are thus deemed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 16, as well as on their own merits.

The remaining claims have been canceled.

This application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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